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1961/01/04

January 4, 1961

Synopsis of Intelligence material reported to the President

LAOS

Radio Hanoi on 1 January identified the troops involved in this action as those of Captain Kong Le operating in coordination with Pathet Lao forces. The same broadcast identified the Communist forces that earlier had captured the border town of Nong Het, east of Xieng Khouang, as the Second Pathet Lao Battalion. This battalion, once integrated into the Laotian army, defected to North Vietnam in May 1959.

General Phoumi told an American official on 1 January that he had made an urgent request to Thailand for four armed T-6 aircraft with Thai pilots for immediate combat use. Phoumi said he had also asked for two Thai parachute battalions and felt confident both requests would be granted. He also asserted that he had asked Thai Premier Sarit to appeal to SEATO for military intervention in Laos on behalf of Laotian government forces.

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